



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Dr. Tony Bennett

DATE: June 10, 2009

SUBJECT: Military Recruitment in schools

I'm writing today to ask you to consider expanding opportunities in your schools for students to receive information about full tuition scholarships for college and, after graduation, jobs with the largest employer in the United States, the United States Military. The United States Military is the world's leader in technology, skilled jobs and research development, and we should not detract from student interest in this field.

A college degree or other post secondary schooling is directly related to success in later life. Thus, it is critical that we allow our students to hear and learn about every opportunity available that would allow them to achieve academic and professional success following high school.

There are several things I want to encourage you to do as administrators. First, assist recruiters by providing directory information for your junior and senior classes. This is one important way for students to find out more about the unique options the armed forces offers.

Second, allow recruiters to visit your school. Visits can and should be pre-arranged and in compliance with your schools guidelines, however under NCLB, you must allow the armed forces the same access to your students as is provided to colleges or prospective employers.

Third, support the NROTC and ROTC scholarship programs. Ensure that your school counselors have information on these programs as there are many full-tuition scholarships available at colleges and universities that have ROTC. In addition, inform interested students about the G.I. Bill and what it can offer for educational reimbursement as well as pre-paid college tuition.

Since 1944, when the GI Bill first began, 21.8 million veterans, service members and family members have received \$83.6 billion in GI Bill benefits for education and training. In 2008 alone, the Department of Veterans Affairs helped pay for the school and/or training of 336,527 veterans and active-duty personnel, as well as 106,092 reservists and National Guardsmen.

As you know, post secondary education is critical to keep our nation at the forefront in the 21st century economy. The armed forces can offer a world of opportunities too vast to be overlooked, thus we must continue to challenge our students and present them with all opportunities available, including those with the U.S. Military.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tony Bennett
Superintendent of Public Instruction